

The General Election Commission Strategy Through Election Education in Increasing the Political Participation of Beginners Voters Based on Democracy Principles

[¹] Rully Sari Soleha, [²] Urip Widodo, * [³] Erna Sophia, [⁴] Nisa Rahimia, [⁵] Muzahid Akbar Hayat

Islamic University of Kalimantan Muhammad Arsyad Al Banjari
Email: uripw9368@gmail.com

* Corresponding Author

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Abstract: This study aims to examine the General Election Commission's strategy through election education in increasing the political participation of new voters based on democratic principles. This research is a qualitative research. The results of this study indicate that novice voters basically need political education regarding elections held by the General Elections Commission. The condition of beginner voters who are still vulnerable to negative politics is certainly an obstacle to the progress of democracy in Indonesia. With political education for novice voters, of course the expected results at the upcoming democratic party in 2024 are increasing awareness of young voters.

Keywords: General Election Commission; Election; Democracy.

1. INTRODUCTION

General elections are a means of people's sovereignty as a form of implementation or embodiment of the democratic system as well as from the application of the fourth principle of Pancasila and Article 1 (2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia which states that Sovereignty is in the hands of the people and carried out according to the 1945 Constitution (Budiarjo, 2008). General elections in Indonesia have been held since 1955 until now, the last simultaneous election was held in 2019 which experienced many changes from the aspect of the legal framework, organizers, stages, participants, institutions, Violation, and

management of its implementation. One measure in assessing the success of holding general elections is political participation which is manifested by the granting of voting rights by people who already have the right to vote (Robrerrt dalam Santoso, 2019). It can be said that the higher the people's participation in the general election, the better democracy in Indonesia will work. Conversely, a low level of participation is generally considered a bad sign, because it can be interpreted that many citizens do not pay attention to the general election process in Indonesia.

General elections are born of course have the goal of electing representatives of the people in order to realize a government of the people by the people, and for the people. According to Liphart, democracy, representative institutions and elections are three concepts that are very related and cannot be avoided. For this reason, public participation is clearly needed in order to be able to implement the meaning of democracy absolutely (Asshiddiqie, 2016).

General elections are important to be held regularly due to several reasons. First, people's opinions or aspirations regarding various aspects of living together in society are dynamic, and develop from time to time. Second, in addition to people's opinions that change from time to time, the conditions of living together in society can also change due to the dynamics of the international world or domestic factors, both due to internal human factors and external factors. Third, it is also possible for changes in people's aspirations and opinions to occur due to an increase in the population and mature people, especially new voters who do not necessarily have the same attitude as their own parents. Fourth, general elections need to be held regularly for the purpose of guaranteeing the change of state leadership, both from the executive and legislative branch of power.

In the previous 2019 election, it was different from the previous election, because according to the decision of the Supreme Court of the Constitution Number 14/PUU-XI/2013 the 2019 election will be held simultaneously (Putusan MK Nomor 14/PUU-XI/2013). With this decision the elections held in 2019 were carried out with five ballot boxes, namely for the President and Vice President, the Regional Representative Council (DPD), the People's Representative Council (DPR) at the Central, Provincial, Regency/City levels. Makamah stated that simultaneous elections

were an effort to avoid tactical political bargaining for the sake of momentary interests, so as to create negotiations and strategic coalitions of political parties for longer interests.

One of the problems that arise in general elections is the participation of the community, especially first time voters or people who are only 17 years old. Beginner voters are the main target of political parties participating in elections in Indonesia because there are quite a lot of them so they have the potential to be influenced by bad influences. To overcome this, novice voters need adequate political participatory skills, because if novice voters tend Adequate political participation will lead to low political quality for first-time voters, which will have an impact on the low quality of elections in Indonesia. In essence, citizens and a democratic society must focus on education and the provision of skills needed to participate and be responsible, effective and scientific.

In line with this statement, states the following (Khairon, 1999):

In today's democracy, it is not enough for citizens to have political knowledge or political aspects, but also need mastery of intellectual skills or critical thinking, namely:

- a) hearing ability;
- b) Ability to identify and describe problems;
- c) Ability to analyze; and
- d) Ability to carry out an evaluation of public issues; Participatory skills include:
 1. Interacting skills;
 2. Expertise in monitoring public issues,
 3. Expertise in influencing public policy.

And of course, to face the upcoming general elections, it is necessary to provide election education to first-time voters to avoid bad political influences or avoid apathy which causes the percentage of Indonesian people's participation to decrease and aspects of democracy in Indonesia are not fulfilled. Beginner voters must be encouraged to be able to position themselves as voters who have participatory skills, because after all they are the next generation of the nation who can eventually grow a culture of '*politics*' because of their political attitudes. As revealed by Mannheim, "*special experience at a special age creates a political*

understanding that is very decisive in seeing political experiences in the future" (Khairon, 1999).

In this case political education is needed in order to create participatory skills for first-time voters so that their participation is active participation. Therefore, there is a problem, namely what are the problems of first-time voter participation in the 2019 general elections and what is the General Election Commission's strategy for first-time voters in the upcoming election based on democratic principles.

2. METHODS

In making a scientific work, especially legal research, it is required to use legal research methods. Legal science strives to display law integrally in accordance with the needs of legal studies, so that research methods are needed to obtain a comprehensive research direction (Nurhayati, 2013). This study uses a qualitative analysis method that is oriented towards phenomena that are fundamental and naturalistic in nature, and cannot be carried out in the laboratory, but in the field. The approach in this study uses a *conceptual approach* in which the analysis of election education in increasing the political participation of novice voters is based on the concept of democratic principles.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. The Problem of Beginner Voter Participation in the 2019 the General Election

Quality of the Democratic Party or what we are more familiar with General Elections is choosing a leader, official or people's representative by punching the name, number or picture of the candidate that voters want to choose. Elections are important because they are the most real form of democracy and the most concrete form of participation or participation of the people in the administration of state life. Therefore, the system and implementation of elections is almost always the main focus of attention because through the arrangement, system and quality of holding elections, it is hoped that a truly democratic government will be realized which is of course in accordance with common expectations. Elections are very important for a country, because (Prof. H. Rozali Abdullah, 2009):

1. Elections are a means of realizing people's sovereignty
2. Elections are a means for political leaders to gain legitimacy
3. Elections are a means for people to participate in the political process
4. Elections are a means of conducting constitutional replacement of leaders.

In this case, those who have the right to vote in general elections are Indonesian citizens who are 17 years of age or older or have been or have been married. An Indonesian citizen who already has the right to vote can only exercise his right if he has been registered as a voter. Beginner voters are voters who vote for the first time because they are just entering the age of voters, namely 17 to 21 years. Their knowledge of elections is not much different from other groups, what differs is a matter of enthusiasm and preference. Political preferences can be summed up as a person's side where he has a tendency and liking for an implementation of political activity whether in the form of elections, decision making, playing an active role in government and so on.

Voters in every general election are registered through data collection carried out by officials appointed by the general election organizers. The conditions that must be possessed in order for a person to be able to vote are (Budiardjo, 1994a):

1. Indonesian citizens who are 17 years of age or older or have/have been married
2. Not having a mental/memory disorder
3. Registered as a voter
4. Not a member of the TNI / Polri
5. Not having their right to vote revoked
6. Registered on the DPT
7. Specifically for the Regional Head Election, the prospective voters must reside for at least six months in the area concerned.

Beginner voters have a large share in the election. They play a very important role as participatory supervisors in the elections that will be held. Participatory/participation is the determination of the attitude and involvement of each individual's desires in the situation and conditions of the organization, so that in the end it encourages the individual to participate in achieving organizational goals, and take part in every shared responsibility.

Survey results *Center for Strategic and International Studies* show that the percentage of first-time voter participation in Indonesia increased from the 2014 election to the 2019 election. It was recorded that 85.9% of respondents said they voted in the 2014 election. Meanwhile, as many as 11.8 % did not vote and 2.3% did not answer. Meanwhile, in the 2019 election the percentage of voters increased. As many as 91.3% of respondents said they voted in the 2019 elections, followed by 8% did not vote, and 0.7% did not answer (Publish, 2019). Based on this, of course it can be said that this is an advancement rather than democracy in Indonesia, especially in this case, namely the participation of novice voters. However, of course in the upcoming elections we want an increase in the percentage of first time voters. And of course, one way is to evaluate the problems that occurred in the 2019 general elections.

The total number of permanent voter lists (DPT) for the 2019 simultaneous elections that the General Election Commission has determined is more than 192 million people. Of these, 100 million are aged 17 to 39 years or what is often referred to as the millennial generation or first-time voters. At present there are many obstacles related to first-time voters in the 2019 general election, including first, many first-time voters who will be 17 years old on April 17 2019 and wish to take part in the General Election have not recorded and printed e-KTPs, alias not yet. have an e-KTP. Second, the requirements for recording, issuing and issuing e-KTPs can only be carried out on the day when the resident turns 17 years old. In Law no. 7 of 2017 concerning Elections stipulates regarding Additional Voter List (DPTb) or voters who have been registered in the DPT at a TPS where due to certain circumstances Voters cannot exercise their right to vote at the TPS where they are registered and vote at other TPS. The condition is that you must show an e-KTP or Certificate (Suket) and a copy of proof that you have been registered as a Voter in the DPT at the original TPS using the Model AA1-KPU form (PKPU No. 11 of 2018, Article 37 paragraph 1).

In addition, in Article 348 of Law no. 7 of 2017 concerning Elections stipulates that in the 2019 Election, for the first time, ownership of an electronic KTP (e-KTP) is a legal requirement for citizens to be able to exercise their right to vote. Without an

e-KTP, they cannot vote. So, even if first time voters are included in the DPT, if they do not have an e-KTP or a ticket, they cannot cast their voting rights. Besides that, there are also other problems in the 2019 general election, including:

1. Beginner voters are prone to being politicized and used as political commodities to boost the popularity and electability of election contestants, both in the presidential and legislative elections.
2. Beginner voters are prone to be approached, persuaded, influenced, mobilized, and so on to be willing to take part in the campaign being implemented. Whereas before this, it was not clear that the election contestants had no concern for first-time voters
3. Many first-time voters still suffer from lability and emotionality. In the election context, they are in a vortex between political enthusiasm and political apathy. On the one hand, they are very excited and want to know about elections, especially through social media. However, this enthusiasm is not necessarily symmetrical with the reality of their political behavior
4. Beginner voters often become easy targets for transactional politics, or money politics. Money politics in the context of novice voters can depart on the initiative of political parties, campaign teams and political brokers (political brokers). However, it could also come from the initiative of the novice voters themselves. Don't forget, among the novice voters are also familiar with money politics and the sources of this money politics. It's just that money politics among first-time voters tends to be only in limited numbers.

3.2. The General Election Commission Strategy for Beginner Voters the Upcoming Election Will be Based on the Democratic Principle

Cadreization activities that the General Election Commission continues to carry out are conducting voter education. As stipulated in General Election Commission Regulation Number 10 of 2018, voter education is defined as the process of conveying information to voters to increase voter knowledge, understanding and awareness about elections (KPU, 2022).

Generation Z (age 8-23 years) and millennial generation (age 24-39 years) are still far from political parties. Although enthusiastic about participating in the

election, the majority still have not made their choice. In the remaining time before the February 14 2024 vote, political parties continue to try to seduce the younger generation through various platforms on social media that are closely related to their lives. The role of the younger generation in the very large 2024 election is not without reason. The results of the 2020 Population Census conducted by the Central Statistics Agency show that the majority of Indonesia's population is dominated by generation Z and millennials. The proportion of generation Z (born 1997-2012) was 74.93 million people or 27.94 percent, followed by millennials (born 1981-1996) as many as 69.38 million people or 25.87 percent. Indonesia's total population reached 270.20 million as of September 2020. This means that their number is very significant for their votes to be contested in the elections. which shows the high enthusiasm of millennials (born 1981-1996) and generation Z (born 1997-2012) to take part in the 2024 elections. As much as 86.7 percent said they were willing to participate in the election. While 10.7 percent are still considering it and 2.6 percent have refused to take part in the electoral event. The telephone survey was conducted among 3,224 respondents aged 17-40 years spread across 80 electoral districts (dapils) on 5 January-9 February 2022. Samples were taken using the random sampling method. With this method, the level of confidence reaches 95 percent, while the margin of error is approximately 1.79 percent. there is a lot of free space for the younger generation to have dialogue about politics who are not only trapped in hedonism and "*bothered*" and must put forward the logic and principles they adhere to in selecting political parties. Because there are various preferences of young people to determine political parties (DPR, n.d.).

Political education activities are expected to be able to provide an in-depth understanding of the basis of the state and the nation's outlook on life, history, ideals and national goals of Indonesia, so that in the end it can develop awareness of love for the motherland, awareness of nation and state, willingness to sacrifice for the nation and state, and can carry out rights and obligations in a harmonious and balanced manner based on a sense of responsibility. the presence of youth in politics is a necessity that needs to be done because youth is a substitute for the baton of national leadership (Budiardjo, 1994a).

Improving the quality of people's lives is greatly influenced by the role of youth in their participation in political life. Youth as a pillar of the nation's future has a big role for the sustainability of a nation. In this regard, youth must have adequate insight and education in order to participate in providing the best for the nation. The younger generation are first time voters who have a large enough voice compared to others. So that novice voters are expected to be able to contribute to political activities both actively and passively. One form of political activity is participating in general elections and local elections. Even though the presidential and vice presidential elections have been completed, there are still many political agendas in Indonesia, including the upcoming 2024 general election (Budiardjo, 1994b).

To realize a democratic party that is in accordance with expectations, schools have an important role through political education for students. Political education in schools can be provided through voter education for students as first time voters who have a very significant number of voters in election activities. Voter/political education has a very important role in raising students' awareness and critical thinking about their right to vote, so that students have an understanding of the implementation of elections/pilkada which is part of the democratic process which is carried out wholeheartedly.

That way, anyone who occupies a leadership chair is someone who is truly qualified, has high integrity, is honest, fair, trustworthy, and is free from practices of corruption, collusion and nepotism. In addition, political education is a fairly effective preventive method for eliminating mass conflict in political activities. The condition of Indonesian society which is heterogeneous and fragmented into several groups is the trigger for the emergence of conflict. Therefore, society, in this case students, are expected to have political intelligence, so that they are no longer objects in elections, but they can become critical subjects in determining their political choices, as well as being a driving force for the maturation of political parties to further fight for the aspirations of the people, not individual or group interests.

The theory of democracy as a form of government administration that is direct (*direct democracy*) from the people, by the people and for the people (*as government of the people, by the people and for the people*). Basically, it was a

reaction to the existence of dictatorial powers in *city states* in ancient Greece. At that time, democracy which was practiced directly was the people's right to make political decisions carried out directly by the people who acted based on majority procedures. The direct model of democracy is known as classical democracy. In order to maintain an ideal democracy, it is necessary to provide political education for first-time voters to ensure that they exercise their right to vote and do so in a proper and correct manner. Especially ahead of the upcoming 2024 general election, the majority of people who have the right to vote are in the age range of 17 to 35 years, and if political education regarding elections is not provided properly, this could potentially result in a high number of first-time voters who do not participate in general elections or are unable to support themselves from politics that is not good and has an impact on the decline of democracy.

Political education plays an important role as a medium for conveying political concepts which have the ultimate goal of making first-time voters more politically literate. Beginner voters who are politically literate are first-time voters who are aware of their rights and obligations so that they can participate in the life of the nation and state in every development process. Political education is needed especially to educate the current young generation who will later become the next generation of the nation. The dynamics that occur in today's global life. The younger generation or first-time voters are expected to be able to understand the dynamics that occur in the developing politics in Indonesia. Beginner voters must have a strong foundation in accordance with the character of the Indonesian nation. So that political education on choosing newbies can be used as a filter for new thoughts, new ideologies and various challenges, obstacles and disturbances both from within and outside the country. Beginner voters basically have a very dynamic thinking. They still don't have a strong foundation, this happens because first-time voters fall into the category of teenagers. Teenagers basically have a pattern that is not strong because there are still many who are looking for forms that are in accordance with the dynamics that are currently developing. There are still those who do not have a strong character. This is not an obstacle for the parties who will help the younger generation to have broad knowledge and good behavior in accordance with good culture and political culture.

General Election Commission is currently continuing to evaluate and innovate for the sake of better election administration. The 2024 election is not just a political competition but also a moment of national integration which is a shared concern for realizing elections according to democratic ideals. The importance of the integrity of the administrator, the integrity of the voters and the integrity of the election participants in order to realize the ideals of an election with integrity.

The strategy that can be carried out by the General Election Commission is to accommodate Beginner Voter Education Facilitation in order to provide socialization of mechanisms or processes in educating first-time voters. This strategy is important for the General Election Commission because it is one of the National work programs targeted by the General Election Commission to increase public participation in the implementation of the 2024 General Elections and Simultaneous Elections. It requires careful preparation and properly planned implementation. Furthermore, the General Election Commission can cooperate with other parties as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding, which will provide benefits for the smooth implementation of the General Election Commission's duties. Therefore, through the preparation of an inventory list of memorandums of understanding, at least to prepare for the next step. Introduction of Beginner Democracy in the 2024 General Election.

With political education for novice voters, of course the expected result at the upcoming democratic party in 2024 is increasing awareness young voters to participate in selecting people's representatives both in the executive and legislative branches in order to achieve maximum democracy in Indonesia.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Beginner voters basically need political education regarding elections held by the General Elections Commission. The condition of beginner voters who are still vulnerable to negative politics is certainly an obstacle to the progress of democracy in Indonesia. Through political education regarding elections carried out by the General Election Commission, especially regarding the procedures for voting during elections and matters relating to knowledge about negative politics.

With political education for novice voters, of course the expected results at the upcoming democratic party in 2024 are increasing awareness of young voters to participate in selecting people's representatives both in the executive and legislative branches in order to achieve maximum democracy in Indonesia.

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